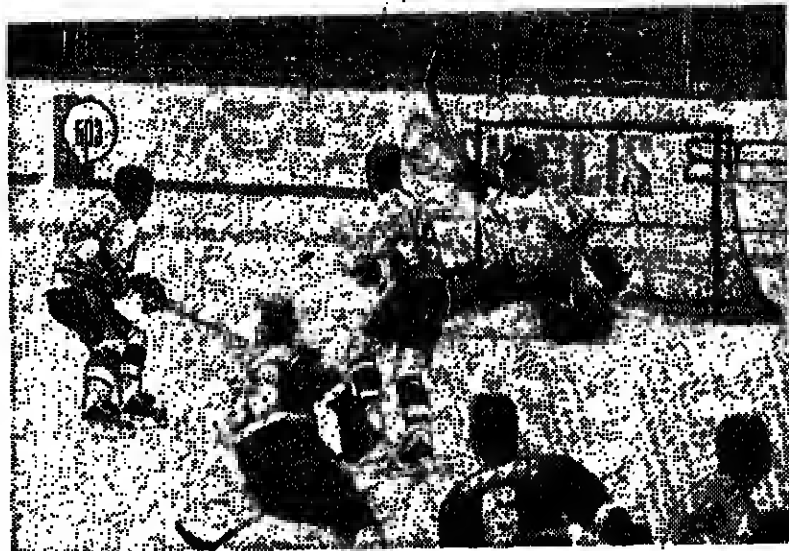


SPORTS

Hockey players prepare

A scene from one of the trial matches (USSR-GDR) in which the USSR is engaged to preparation for the world and European championships starting late this month. To Moscow it twice took on the GDR team and won on both occasions. The USSR also beat Finland to two away games.

Photo by Sergei Chelnokov



No one, even Kasparov, escaped defeat

At the traditional competition of the teams of Pioneers and Schoolchildren led by Grandmasters and held in Irkutsk, not a single captain of the six teams, who were five Grandmasters and one Master, escaped defeat, including the participant in the world championship match Garry Kasparov.

The eighth final chess tournament of Pioneers teams of the country featured the best of over 800 children's collectives, which took part in the elimination competition held around the country. These were the teams of Moscow, Baku, Kharkov, Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk and Irkutsk, led by Grandmasters Artur Yusupov, Gari Kasparov, Sergei Dolmatov, Alexander Panchenko, Lev Pashkis and Master Igor Novikov.

Success of Tbilisi gymnasts

A schoolgirl, Eka Zeturidze, and a student of the economics department of Tbilisi University, Vladimir Gogoladze, won the main prizes of the international annual gymnastic tournament held in Riga. Over a hundred sportsmen from 28 countries attended the three-day contest which followed the "MN" prize.

The 17-year-old Eka totalled 38.550 points. After her came two other Soviet gymnasts — Irina Baraksova with 38.375 and Natalya Lashchenova who made 38.275. The best guest gymnast was Chao Cuijing of China: she placed fourth with 38.225 points.

The success of Zeturidze, who performed equally well in all the events, is her first victory in such an important competition. Of the achievements of

the past year we can mention that she placed second in floor exercises during the national championship. The coaches paid attention to the success of Lashchenova of Riga. Her third place speaks for itself but there is another important factor — she is only 17.

Gogoladze did well, too. He was close to victory in Moscow (coming only 0.1 points behind the winner), and several days later was the best in Riga with 57.75 points. Among the award winners are two Soviet sportsmen: Radion Gabilov who had 57.30 and Oleg Kapstov—56.70. Li Cher Khen of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Guo Liangheng of China shared the fourth place with 56.65 points each.

The medals in the individual events were awarded to gymnasts from eight countries.

masters met only children from the rival teams, as though giving seven youthful opponents (among them one girl) a simultaneous play session. The results scored by the children in the session were added to the points scored in the other session by "their" Grandmaster-captains. After the round robin competition the winning team is that which, together with its Grandmaster, scores the most points.

As a result of the tournament in Irkutsk Kasparov and his seven Baku children placed only second, even though Gari was the head among the other team captains (30 of 35 points possible). Unfortunately for the captain, the schoolchildren from Baku did poorly. They took away from Grandmasters only eight points. The total sum is 38.

The winners were the Pioneers

team led by Grandmaster Artur Yusupov — 42 points. Incidentally, the Moscow Pioneers scored the most 12.5 points among all the other children in a meeting with Grandmasters. The Sverdlovsk team led by Sergei Dolmatov placed third with 35 points.

Kasparov suffered two defeats — from Chelyabinsk school pupil Alexei Dudkin and youthful Muscovite Leonid Chernyak.

Viktor SASKIN, chess observer

'EXAMS' PASSED

One end of a half month ago Alexei Zhukov, a 20-year-old student of the Novosibirsk Economic Institute, holder of all top underwater swimming titles, had only one dream — to successfully pass his regular exams at the institute. I won't hide from you, he said, that studies take up so much energy and time that I even had to limit training. However, I hope to be in form by the new season and fight for world records and new victories.

He recently passed his exams. Naturally, no one expected outstanding results from him before summer. But Zhukov, as usual, refuted the prognosis. He excellently passed his sports exams, too. In the recent national underwater swimming competition held in Pskalyovo (Leningrad Region) where he set two new world records in the underwater swimming with

1996 Winter Olympics Leningrad makes bid

Leningrad, the second most important Soviet city, has expressed the desire to host the 1996 Winter Olympics. A plenary session of the National Olympic Committee unanimously supported the Leningrad bid and has instructed the committee to make the appropriate representation to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) with appended requisite guarantees that the Olympic Games will be organized in full conformity with the rules of the Olympic Charter.

All Olympic winter sports, without exception, are intensively developed and loved in the USSR. It suffices, perhaps, to say that some five million people regularly go in for skiing alone, regularly train and attend various events. Known, too, are the achievements of leaders on the international arena. Since 1956 Soviet representatives have invariably been competing in the Winter Games, consistently winning the unofficial team standings. In all they have swept a total of 67 gold medals. At the 1985 Sarajevo Olympics the USSR won most of the medals — six gold, ten silver and nine bronze — 25 altogether.

The city has enough facilities of the winter sports, enabling the staging of events on any scale.

In 1980 this city got the "Olympic" — the stadium hosted the games of the 1980 Olympic ball tournament.

Leningrad is a city of sports, said IOC President Antonio Samaranch, who visited it. It is beautiful architectural monuments, modern sports palaces, you feel genuine friendliness and respect of

A city with a tradition of sports has a large industrial, scientific and cultural center, large sports facilities, including winter sports. Leningrad has always been a national Olympic base. The last Olympics in 1980 the Soviet team included representatives of Leningrad some ten per cent of the team. They competed in alpine skiing, luge and ice hockey. Dmitry Vasilenko, figure skater Yana Rudkovskaya and Oleg Vasilenko won medals.

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scuba in the 100 m in 35.54 sec and in the 400 m in 1:58.30.

Altogether seven world records were set. Zhukov held the record in the 100 m (35.54 sec) and in the 400 m (1:58.30) respectively, while Irina Baraksova set new world records in the 100 m (35.54 sec) and in the 400 m (1:58.30) respectively.

Photo by V. Kiselev

Carnival on snow carpet

Seems from a traditional holiday at Alpine ski lovers devoted to the closing of the skiing season in Moscow, city and region, and the beginning of spring. This merry carnival drew to the vicinity of the Turist station outside Moscow nearly 5,000 people.

Photos by Alexei Dityakin



MINFORMATION

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The Soviet Union again shows goodwill

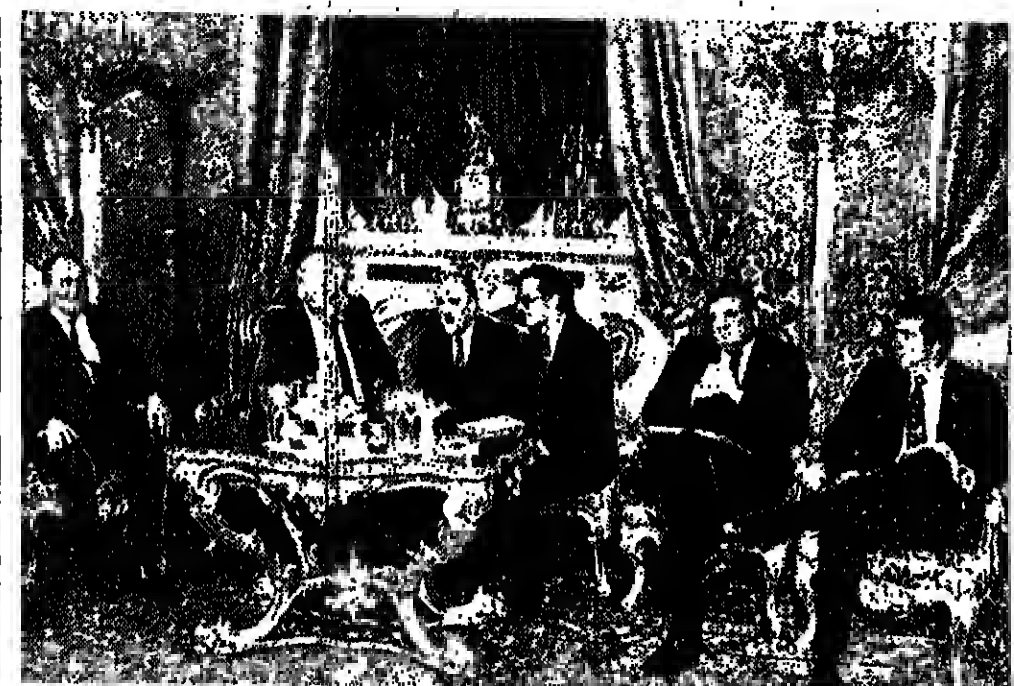
- The Soviet Union is introducing a moratorium on the deployment of its medium-range missiles and suspending other response measures in Europe.
- The USSR and the USA have spoken in favour of a summit meeting. The time and place of it are subject to subsequent agreement.
- Confrontation is not an inborn defect in Soviet-American relations. It is rather an anomaly. There is no inevitability at all of its being.

All these points were noted by Mikhail Gorbachev in an interview he gave to a "Pravda" editor.

In developing international relations in today's world one cannot but take this into account. One must not ignore the interests of other states or try to deny them their right to choose their road of development themselves, said the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. In a broad sense, this is a policy of peaceful coexistence under which each of the systems will prove by strength of example and not by strength of arms which is better.

Mikhail Gorbachev characterized as positive the fact of the start of Soviet-American talks in Geneva. Jointly with the United States we defined the subject and aims of the talks and, to put it briefly, defined them as follows: not to start an arms race in space, stop the arms race on Earth and start radical reduction in nuclear arms in order to

(Continued on page 2)



At the USSR Supreme Soviet Thomas O'Neill (second from left), Lev Tolstunov (third from left).

American Congressmen in Moscow

At the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, a delegation of the US Congress (House of Representatives) led by its Speaker Thomas O'Neill has arrived in Moscow on an official visit.

The delegation has already paid a visit to the USSR Supreme Soviet. Welcoming the guests, Chairman of the Soviet of the

Union, L. N. Tolstunov underscored the importance of parliamentary links for advancing Soviet-American relations.

T. O'Neill noted that the visit followed the trip by a delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to the USA. He said at that time numerous meetings

took place, during which many questions of interest for the two countries and the world as a whole were discussed. Our delegation, he said, is in Moscow not to hold talks on behalf of the government, but to discuss a number of important issues and to understand the two sides' approach to them.

HUNGARIAN FESTIVAL ENDS



A gala concert, "Bouquet from Hungary", concluded Days of Hungarian Culture dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the country's liberation from fascism.

The Festival's programme offered the Soviet people concerts of vocalists, solo instrumentalists, conductors and numerous professional and amateur companies. Films were demonstrated; creative meetings and discussions were organized along with exhibitions. During the week, people in 16 Soviet cities attended events envisaged in the programme of the Festival. The five artistic exhibitions opened in Moscow as part of the Days are still in progress.

The programme of Days of Soviet Culture dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the Victory over fascism will be no less varied. They will take place in October this year in Hungary.

Hungarian cultural workers at Red Square.

Photo by V. Kiselev



A participant in a mass demonstration outside the South African Embassy in Washington.

FACTS and EVENTS

• Peace activists in the Japanese prefecture of Kyoto have gathered 340 thousand signatures to a call declaring Kyoto a nuclear-free zone. Five other Japanese prefectures, along with four hundred towns and villages, have so far been declared such zones.

• The US administration has delivered yet another blow against the economies of the Latin American states already weakened by the current crisis. The losses resulting from a special duty on Latin American and Caribbean sugar beginning this April will cost these countries some 93 million dollars.

• In Peking, the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Education and the PRC Ministry of Education have

signed a cooperation protocol for the 1985-86 academic year. The protocol covers exchange of 200 students and fellows from each country for a term of one to two years.

• The UN Special Committee Against Apartheid has adopted a declaration, in Memory of the 25th Anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa, in which it condemns the continuing crimes perpetrated by the South African regime against the black population of the country. The declaration calls on all states to take immediate steps to internationally isolate the Pretoria regime. These steps include the termination of all trade and financial links; full observance of the embargo on weapons; supplies; discontinuation of all forms of nuclear cooperation; and compliance with the boycott on cultural, educational and scientific contacts with the apartheid regime.

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Handwritten text: "The 1st of 1985"

The Soviet Union again shows goodwill

(Continued from page 1)

ultimately do away with them altogether. Now we have to get down to carrying out this accord, the Soviet leader stressed. Touching upon the American plans of "star wars", Mikhail Gorbachev described as fantastic the arguments used to substantiate space militarization. They speak of defence but prepare for attack, they endeavor to use a space shield but are forging a space sword, they promise to liquidate nuclear arms but in practice build up these arms and refuse them. They promise the world stability but in reality strive to wreck the military balance.

Just as the appearance of nuclear arms did not eliminate conventional types of arms and only generated accelerated manufacture of both nuclear and conventional arms, the creation of space arms can have only one result — the arms race becoming even more intensive and embracing new spheres, warned the Soviet leader.

He pointed out that the main lever for producing a substantial turnaround in the international situation lies in the sphere of security. Baumbasting con-

crete measures in this region, Mikhail Gorbachev stressed that if one has taken one's seat to negotiate arms reduction, one should not least refuse from increasing them further. That is why we propose that the USSR and the USA put the entire duration of the talks a moratorium on the development (including research), testing and deployment of strike space arms and freeze their strategic offensive arms. At the same time the deployment of American medium-range missiles in Europe should be terminated and, correspondingly, the build up of our measures of response.

We are for honest dialogue, Mikhail Gorbachev stressed. We are prepared to demonstrate our goodwill again. As of today, and I would like to emphasize this, the Soviet Union is introducing a moratorium on the deployment of its medium-range missiles and suspending other response measures in Europe. The moratorium will last till November of this year. When we go after depends on whether the United States follows our example: will it or will not stop the deployment of its medium-range missiles in Europe.



Drawing by Vladimir Sviridov

ISRAELI TERROR AND REBUFF

Beirut. Israeli aggressors have conducted new punitive actions in South Lebanon.

Given the toughening of the regime of occupation, the Lebanese patriots continue combat operations against the invaders.

According to the Beirut press, this past March the guerrillas carried out 220 operations against the invaders, as a result of which 19 Israeli soldiers were killed and 41 wounded.

Sombre news is coming from Salda, where bloody clashes continue between the right Christian "Lebanese forces", on the one hand, and Lebanese army units and residents, on the other. Several residential areas

and eastern suburbs in Salda and two Palestinian refugee camps were shelled again, causing casualties. According to the local media, over 75,000 refugees in Salda badly need food and medicine.

Namibia has been converted into a police state

London. The Pretoria government is further tightening its control over Namibia and to continue its occupation. This action has been made by the British Parliamentarians Lord Anderson, Lord Kesteven and others who have visited from a voyage to the area.

At a press conference in London they declared that they had not managed to detect evidence of the preparation of the South African forces to withdraw troops from Namibia, any signs of preparations to claim its independence.

They stressed that the African reaction has been one of having unfolded a campaign of terror and repression against African population and representatives of the national liberation movement. Arrests, follow-up or investigation, listening-in of the telephone conversations, and censorship of the press are widely practiced on the occupied land.

In Namibia, a veritable reign of terror is occurring, pointed out Lord Anderson and Lord Kesteven. They demanded that the British government put economic, political and other pressure on South Africa for the purpose of a quick assurance of independence to the people.

FBI FIGHTS DISSIDENTING VIEW

Washington. Under the pretext of discussing the "growing fear of international terrorism", the FBI is seeking to intensify its war against Americans with dissident views.

Speaking before the Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism of the Committee on the Judiciary of the American Senate, Director, W. Webster, stressed that "international terrorism" presents a serious threat to the United States. In this context, he demanded that Congress should increase allocation to the department by 20.5 million dollars to the next fiscal year.

Talk about the "growing fear of international terrorism" in the United States is needed by the US administration to justify its persecution of activists in the struggle against the apartheid regime in South Africa and its fatal impact on the country.

FACTS and EVENTS

There have been no test flights since the development of the space shuttle, the American Space Shuttle, the American Space Shuttle, the American Space Shuttle.

A VASS project is being developed in the United States. The project is being developed in the United States. The project is being developed in the United States.

Latin America: can the financial crisis be overcome?

Mexico City. The paying of the external debt by the countries of the continent is impossible either from economic, political or moral points of view. This was noted by Fidel Castro in an interview to the Mexican newspaper "Excelsior".

The present crisis, noted the Cuban leader, is worse than the crisis of the 1970s, since at that time the population has grown three times, the purchasing power of the money has declined as export of goods has dropped three to four times, and the external debt which at that time was practically non-existent, has now reached 350,000 million dollars.

Fidel Castro stressed that if the Latin American and other developing countries acted jointly and decisively, they would achieve a real possibility to solve the problem of the external debts and attain other aims.

FACTS and EVENTS

The national fund for peace and solidarity attached to the Patriotic Front of Bulgaria, has presented the working people of Afghanistan with a large shipment of clothing, footwear, tools, notebooks and other educational materials as well as training aids and children's toys.

According to estimates of the Children's Fund, today 113 million children under 14, or one-third more than 10 years ago live in poverty. At least 66 million American teenagers spend the nights in streets and by entrance in this richest country of the West most children die not from accidents or diseases, but from hunger and poverty.

In Britain, the Labour Party is considerably ahead of the ruling Conservative Party in its popularity. This is evident from the results of an opinion poll held by the newspaper "Daily Telegraph". While Labour is supported by 37.5 per cent of the people polled, only 33 per cent favour the Conservative Party.

European metallurgy on decline

Brussels. The steel industry in the EEC countries is on the decline. As has been reported by the Commission of the European Communities, in February this year 1.57 million tonnes of steel were produced in "Minor Europe", 4.5 per cent less than in February last year.

This slump is to a considerable extent explained by the protectionist measures taken by the US administration contrary to previous agreements. The measures were obviously aimed at the EEC steel industry, the world's major competitor in the world capitalist market. In January Washington introduced new restrictions on the export of steel products to the EEC. The American market is highly important for the EEC, accounting for 20 per cent of its exports.

The restrictions introduced by Washington and the threat of new import barriers have forced the "steel trusts" of the EEC to reduce production. As a result many steel workers of Western Europe have lost their jobs. Last year more than thirty thousand workers were dismissed in the EEC.



Young Nicaraguans—defenders of their Revolution.

JAPAN'S RULING PARTY ATTEMPTS TO WEAKEN ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT

Tokyo. A secret circular, demanding that all sorts of obstacles be put in the way of the mass movement for the creation of nuclear-free zones in Japan, has been sent by the leadership of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to local party branches. According to the "Akanishi" newspaper, the document stresses that the anti-war movement, which has swept across the country, contradicts the cabinet's course of strengthening alliance with Washington. In this connection party functionaries have been ordered to use whatever means possible to foil

the adoption of a "declaration of peace" in the local self-government bodies. Recently party representatives managed, by behind-the-scenes machinations, to prevent Kyoto Prefecture and Tokyo from being proclaimed nuclear-free zones.

Yet such actions by the Conservatives cannot relieve the government of its fear of the growing peace movement. Over the past year the number of nuclear-free zones in the country has nearly doubled. Under the pressure from the broad public life prefectures and over 400 towns and settlements have been declared such zones.

Five thousand killed in Guatemala

Washington. Against the background of the continuing cruel violations of the civil liberties and freedoms in Guatemala, the statement by the Reagan administration that the ruling regime there is at a stage of "democratization" and deserves more American assistance looks like mockery, says a statement published here by the public organization "Council for the Western Hemisphere".

Religious and public leaders, students, professors and peasants are becoming new and new victims of the Guatemalan punitive troops, the statement points out.

On 26 and 27 March the security forces killed two professors from the San Carlos University. Last year, they murdered more than 100 teachers from this university, and twenty students and more are reported "missing".

From Guatemala, points out the document, regular reports are coming about mass reprisals by the army units against peasants. All in all last year, nearly five thousand citizens were killed in Guatemala and another 1.5 thousand are reported "missing".

Theory of improbability

Groot Einstein, the creator of the theory of probabilities, would be highly surprised if he knew about such confidences. Indeed, one finds it hard to believe that Norwegian physicist Ole Andersen has managed to catch out all the fishes in the North Sea, the one which had swallowed the ring of his wife's little ring dropped into the sea during a voyage; and the distressed woman had already lost all hopes of ever seeing it again.

THE SITUATION IN ULSTER IS AGGRAVATING

London. There has been a fresh aggravation in Ulster. In the town of Newry a bomb exploded outside the building of the town court. It was placed in a car. As a result, two men were killed and five were seriously injured.

The tragedy in Newry has heated the situation, explosive as it was to Northern Ireland. The leaders of the Right-Wing Protestant organizations have demanded that the Thatcher government take emergency measures to "ensure security". In the language of reaction this means reinforcement of military and police repression against the indigenous population of the province who are demanding the restoration of the rights and liberties of the Catholic population.

For more than fifteen years, the Government of Great Britain has been administering direct rule in Ulster. During this time as a result of cruel reprisals and police brutality more than 2,300 people have died.

OF INTEREST

One can imagine how glad she was, after finding the jewel in the stomach of a herring which her husband had caught. In another development, Venezuelan Jorge Negrete has announced his car to pieces against the same tree for the second time. Both incidents, which can hardly be described as pleasant, occurred because a broken branch fell on his vehicles.

Second 'La Gioconda'

According to Swiss newspaper, the second "Mona Lisa" by great Leonardo da Vinci is kept in a Lausanne Bank steel safe. Will experts, though, confirm its authenticity? The painting department of the Paris Louvre has some information that Leonardo da Vinci indeed painted two portraits of Mona Lisa. The press reports have it that the second canvas was illegally pilfered from Great Britain.

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

KEY ISSUE AT THE GENEVA TALKS

Outer space is the key issue at the Geneva talks, writes SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA. The point is that the launching of strike weapons into outer space is by no means a project of distant future but an imminent danger. The insistence on the "defensive" nature of such plans must not mislead anyone. Using the "space shield" as a cover, the USA intends to keep in flight the whole world and dictate its will to other peoples. Herin lies the essence of the so-called strategic defence initiative of Washington, for the implementation of which the Americans are trying to use their NATO allies.

The turn all this will take depends on the stand of America and West European countries, which are given 60 days by the US Defense Secretary to consider whether they will participate in the US preparations for "star wars". Each country has, naturally, the right to act in accordance with its own interests. However, participation of West Europeans in the US plans to carry the arms race into outer space won't begot either the expected security or lasting peace.

PEACE AND SECURITY TO ASIA

Serious sense of tensions remain in this day in Asia, where more than a half of the world's population lives, SLSKAYA ZHIZN writes in connection with the Asia Week, being held according to the appeal by the World Peace Council. The imperialist circles, above all, of the USA, have not given up attempts of economic and political enslavement of the continent. They are out to entangle it in a ramified network of military bases, are stepping up military activities in the Far East, South-East Asia, the Indian and Pacific ocean basins.

Undeclared wars are being waged against the peoples of Afghanistan and Kampuchea, dangerous plans are being hatched for turning Asia, which was the first target of American nuclear weapons, into the Pentagon's missile and nuclear base.

The main idea and spirit of the decisions adopted at the Afro-Asian Summit, which was held for the first time thirty years ago, in April 1955, in the Indonesian city of Bandung, was to unite all fighters for national liberation, for turning Asia into a continent of peace and cooperation. The spirit of Bandung lives on in this day, and not only because people remember that meeting and have filmed the Asia Week to its anniversary. Its main result is that millions of people in Asia are joining today into common ranks of fighters for security and stability in that part of the world.

THROUGH THE BACK DOOR

PRAVDA writes that a new plot is being hatched against Namibia. Talks were held in South Africa between President P. Botha and a delegation of the so-called multi-party conference — an alliance of six puppet Namibian parties. It was announced that a kind of "transitional government" would be set up and that administration of the racist-occupied country would be handed over to it — naturally on paper.

It is common knowledge that the UN has elaborated a plan for granting independence to Namibia. This is embodied in the Security Council Resolution No. 435, which provides for holding democratic elections under international control. It is obvious, however, that in this case victory of these elections would practically belong to SWAPO — a patriotic organization which has been fighting for many years for independence and has been recognized by the UN as the only legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

The actions of the racist regime show clearly that it has no intention of fulfilling Resolution No. 435. Pretoria is trying to drag its puppets to power by fraud, through the "back door".

WHAT HAS SPAIN GAINED FROM EEC?

Have the hopes of Spaniards that joining the Common Market will enable them to modernize industry and increase exports been justified? It is not so easy to answer this question, writes ZVESTIA. The negotiations on Spain's accession to the Common Market showed the seriousness of contradictions within the alliance itself and how difficult it is to achieve even the slightest concessions from other countries concerned with their own problems. In fact, Spain had to go against its interests in agriculture and in industry by agreeing to reduce the production of many of its goods for the sake of illusive gains which the country hopes to get in 7-10 years, when the so-called transitional period of its "adaptation" in the EEC is over.

There is also little hope in considerably increasing exports to the Common Market countries, taking into account the weak competitiveness of Spanish goods. On the other hand, new partners gaze longingly at the Spanish market because they get favourable opportunities for expansion — conditions stipulated in advance for dumping their goods in Spain.

VIEWPOINT

Eduard RYABTSEV

Middle East: what the balance of forces signifies

Another attempt by Israel to destabilize the situation in Lebanon, the desire of Tel Aviv, and Washington to draw Jordan into a separate deal, and the sharp aggravation of the Israeli armed conflict can be by no means be termed as accidental. They are all effects of the same cause. Its essence is that Washington and Tel Aviv are doing everything possible to radically change in their favor the balance of military-political forces in this region.

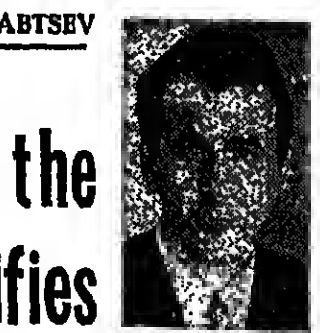
In recent years, as a result of the firm support of the Soviet Union for the Arab stand elaborated at Fae in 1982, the positions of the Middle East states in the international arena have considerably strengthened. Syria's defense capacity has been appropriately consolidated. Any Israeli attack on this country today will be fraught with serious consequences. Moscow's contacts and links with the Arabs in the Gulf zone, primarily with Kuwait, have intensified.

This could not but affect the situation in Lebanon, where there has been a growing tendency to strengthen the territorial integrity and unity of the country. The threat of American armed interference in Lebanon, from where the "multinational" forces of some NATO countries

had to hastily withdraw, followed later by US marines, revealed to the Arabs what their tremendous force can achieve. The Lebanese Shi'ites were the first to feel it, having turned the south of their country into a hot frying pan for the Israeli occupation forces. The growth of anti-Israeli sentiment led to the isolation of Tel Aviv on the international arena, making it start pulling out its troops from Lebanon. Their withdrawal has encouraged the popular war against Israeli invaders.

It appears that the Arabs are virtually scared no more by the imperial policy of force. Together with their positive peace initiatives, this drew broad support for their foreign policy from the UN, which has firmly supported a fair settlement within the framework of an international conference on the Middle East.

The USA, in an attempt to conduct a policy of arm twisting in relation to the Arabs so as to retain its influence here, in fact, met with the problem of holding stand in an iron fist. As is known, the more you squeeze it, the more the sand slips through your fingers. The same is now happening in the case of the Arab world, where, despite



the growing US pressure, an independent course rejecting American domination is gaining momentum.

The present balance of forces is clearly in favor of the USA and Israel. Hence it is not difficult to understand why Tel Aviv has again provoked an international armed confrontation in Lebanon. The aggravation of the situation in this country helps the Israeli rulers to engage the American administration as a "mediator" so that they could jointly dictate, with the help of force, their terms to the Lebanese people.

The attempts to gain supremacy are connected with the efforts of Washington and Tel Aviv to widen their Camp David bloc at the expense of Jordan, and to take advantage of the situation at the Iraqi-Iranian front. The attempts to involve Jordan in the tactics of separate deals show the US and Israeli desire to bury the Palestinian problem and to build bridges between Tel Aviv and some capitals of conservative Arab states. The escalation of the war between Iraq and Iran leads to the conclusion that some circles are bent on intensifying the oil shocks of the Gulf and thus throw them into the military embrace of the USA.

So is it worthwhile for the USA to do this way? Is it not better to take steps to achieve a fair and lasting peace through the mechanism of an international conference on the Middle East under UN aegis? Moscow is convinced that the problem can only be solved this way, and is doing all it can to make this materialize in the nearest future.

Round the Soviet Union

● A PURE DIAMOND WEIGHING 291.6 CARATS WAS RECENTLY FOUND AT ONE OF THE ENRICHMENT COMPLEXES IN YAKUTIA. Named "Forty Years of Victory", the precious stone will soon replenish the Soviet Diamond Fund.

● IRRIGATORS HAVE MADE AN EXTENSIVE MARSHY LOWLAND IN THE ARARAT REGION OF ARMENIA (A REPUBLIC IN THE CAUCASUS) FERTILE. Over one hundred hectares of maize and perennial grasses will be sown this season. New areas in the mountainous republic are being developed in accordance with a long-term programme. Also being developed are rocky and saline tracts and reinvigorated heaths.

● MOSKOVICH AND LADA CARS RUNNING ON NATURAL GAS METHANE ARE UNDERGOING TESTS AT THE AUTOMOBILE-ROAD INSTITUTE IN TASHKENT (CAPITAL OF THE UZBEK REPUBLIC IN CENTRAL ASIA). The institute's laboratory of thermal engines is evaluating the efficiency of a new car fuel system designed by specialists from several motorworks. These new types of cars will be able to run on both gas and petrol. With the expansion of the network of filling stations, the cars will use gas only.

● A SPECIAL ORDER PLACED BY CUBAN POWER ENGINEERS HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY FULFILLED BY THE KIROV PLANT IN KHARKOV, THE UKRAINE. Shipment of the units of the fast high-speed turbine with a capacity of 100,000 kilowatts has started. It is meant for the Havana thermal power station — the biggest in Cuba — now under construction. Units of this type have already proved their worth on other power stations in the country.

● IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO SAVE THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE MOLDAVIAN RESERVE, KODRY, THANKS TO THE SITTING UP OF A PROTECTIVE ZONE ROUNDT. Two km wide ring will prevent the unique forest from being affected by economic activities of neighbouring collective and state farms. It is banned to use chemical means of plant protection on these farms. They will be replaced by biological preparations and useful insects.

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

TAMING OF THE BARCHAN

Fourteen per cent of the Soviet Union are deserts and semideserts. In Turkmenia (a Soviet Central Asian republic) bare-dry desert occupies 80 per cent of the territory. Nevertheless, three-fourths of it are used as pastures. Desert there is known to be the producer of oil and coal, and a habitat of a unique animal kingdom.

However, now we are speaking of what is being done, rather than what can be done, to enhance the efficiency of desert. Agapshen Bayev, President of the Turkmen SSR Academy of Sciences, writes in *LEBNAYA PRO-MYSHLENNOST*. Thanks to afforestation, the phrase "anchored sands" is in wide use now. Plants are green traps of soil against moving sand.

Beds of forests spaced out within one hundred metres along against the wind, provide a shadow for sheep to protect them from scorching sunshine, and save the sand and the grass of pastures from being blown away, the result being that a hundred hectares provide food for 80 sheep instead of 20-25 when no sakaul forest was planted. The improved pastures yield up to ten times more fodder — an increase from 0.3 tonne before afforestation to 3.0-3.5 and even 3.0 tonnes per hectare, or a sixfold increase in cash. A group of Turkmen experts were awarded a USSR State Prize for their success in the improvement of pastures.

CONCERN FOR A WRITER

West German writer Dieter Lotmann, comparing one day the position of a writer in the USSR and West

Germany, pointed out that the financial and social status of literary unions in the Federal Republic of Germany and the USSR were exactly opposite. Writers in West Germany do not have either money funds or holiday homes. They are engaged in continuous struggle for a radical improvement of their social and legal status.

Recalling these words of the West German writer, Sergei Barzudin, Secretary of the Board of the USSR Writers Union, writes in the newspaper *ARGUMENTY I FAKTY* that concern for a writer in the Soviet Union began from the first resolutions of the Soviet Government, regarding scientific and artistic intelligentsia. As far back as 1924 the Soviet Government adopted a decision on the formation of a special organization of the Fund of the USSR. The decision said that the main task of the Literary Fund was to help the members of the Soviet Writers Union "by improving their services and financial position, as well as rendering aid to the increasing number of writers by providing them with necessary material conditions and everyday amenities."

Concern for writers employed by the Writers Union and the Literary Fund of the USSR, consideration for their needs is not a charity or patronage, stresses the author. They are concerned with the same task as, for example, the organization of writers' trips round the country, with the task of enhancing the creative activity of literary workers, contribute to fuller materialization of their artistic abilities and plans.

VINEYARDS IRRIGATED... BY THE SEA

Agricultural experts of Daghestan, an autonomous republic in the North Caucasus, suggest that coastal

sands be planted with trees and shrubs as well as fruit trees and sea water used for irrigation. With coastal sands stretching in Daghestan for more than 40,000 hectares, the suggestion seems very sound economically, writes *IZVESTIA*.

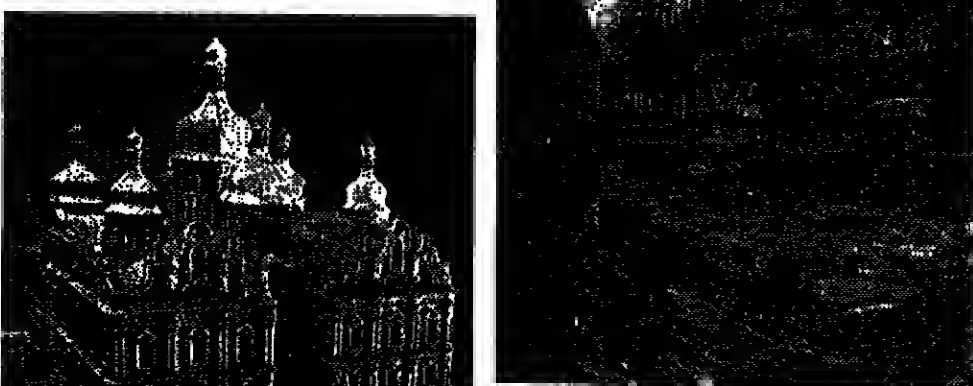
Up until recently science maintained that mineralization of water used for irrigation purposes should not exceed one gramme of salts per litre to avoid excessive salinity. 3-6 to 10-12 grammes of salts per litre was believed to make Caspian water fully unsuitable for land reclamation. However, coastal sands were found to accumulate no salts. During irrigation of soil, experiments proved it right, and coastal sands immediately became attractive for vine growing, moreover its costs are very attractive.

VOLCANOES AND CLIMATE

Changes in volcanic activity may have been one of the reasons for weather modification, especially the transgression and regression of the ice cover in the post-ice epochs. This is the conclusion made by Soviet scientists on the basis of information on the influence of eruptions on the chemical composition and structural characteristics of the atmosphere, writes the magazine *NAUKA I ZHIZN*. For example, a volcanic cloud in the atmosphere may live for 1.5 years, actively influencing the heat exchange and climate on the planet. Climatologically, continents, as it was revealed by scientists, more readily respond to the intensification of volcanic eruptions than oceans, inasmuch as heat exchange in them goes much faster.

THESE WALLS HAVE SEEN A LOT...

A decision has been taken to restore the Assumption Cathedral of the Kiev-Pechersky Monastery site reserve (Ukraine). The Cathedral, built in the 11th century, was destroyed by the Nazis during the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945. In the trying post-war years there were no funds for its restoration, later a decision was taken to leave it in ruins as a vivid testimony to Nazi vandalism. However, of late public opinion is more and more inclined towards restoration of the Old Russia architectural masterpiece. Experts argued for a long time on how the Cathedral will look like after restoration. In fact, it was rebuilt and renovated several times in the Middle Ages; new structures were added to it. It was suggested that the exterior be restored to look like it was during the 11th century. But as a result of scientific discussion and public opinion assessment, the municipal authorities in Kiev decided that the Assumption Cathedral should look just as it did before the war — as today's older generation recalls it.



● The walls of the Cathedral, blown up by the Nazis.

● The way it will look after restoration (left).

DAM BUILT BY EXPLOSION

The method of building the new Kambarlinskaya hydropower station dam (located in the mountains of Tien Shan) will cost the state 150 million roubles cheaper than the construction of a concrete one. The dam will be "built" by a controlled explosion: 26,000 tonnes of explosives will fill into the air and then accurately pile up many millions tonnes of rock in the bottom of a deep gorge, thereby damming the bed of the Naryn River.

The new hydropower station will be the fourth on the full-

flowing 600 km long Naryn River — the main tributary of the Syrdarya — the second biggest river in Central Asia. The Naryn River rises amid the eternal snows and glaciers of Kirghizia (a Union republic in the north-east of Central Asia) and rushes down into the valley along mountain casyones. In its estuary water consumption is more than 420 cu m per second. This was the site of the first stage of the cascade of power stations. The capacity of the Toktogul hydropower station is

1.2 million kilowatts. A big man-made sea, in which more than 18,000 million cu m of water are accumulated, has formed beyond the dam of the station blocking the Naryn River at an altitude of 3.8 kilometres. The reservoir ensures regular irrigation of thousands of hectares of cotton fields of Kirghizia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, which used to suffer from drought.

All in all, 22 power stations have been built on the Naryn River.

Floating bridges

A ferry-icebreaker of a new series was recently added to the stocks of the ship-repair yards of the Latvian (Baltic area) sea shipping line. It is meant for navigation all the year round in the Baltic Sea between the islands of the Moonasund archipelago and the continental Estonia and will be able to carry a large number of passengers and dozens of cars.

This ferry belongs to the third "generation" of ships, the construction of which started in the current five-year plan period. New ships are built in conjunction with engineering workers of the German Democratic Republic who supply electric equipment and engines. The new series will include several ferry-icebreakers.

SIX SUPERLONG GAS PIPELINES IN 5 YEARS

The laying of the Western Siberia-Centre gas main, which stretches for more than 3,000 km, has been completed. Finishing touches are now being put to assembling compressor stations. This is the first superlong line built over the past five years. Through this fuel from the world's richest deposit, Urengoi (Western Siberia), is being pumped to the European part of the USSR, and along the 4,500 km export line to Western Europe.

The USSR is building gas pipelines mainly by means of Soviet equipment. The technology worked out on its basis, is an enable bulidment to lay 50-60 km of pipeline per day. Some type of equipment, for example, machines for automatic welding of pipes, have no analogues in the world. In a record time the production of compressor stations with a capacity of 25 megawatts was completed in Leningrad. The USA tried to prevent their procurement from abroad. Washington failed to frustrate (with its embargo on the supplies of the equipment) the construction of the export gas line. The Soviet Union fulfilled its commitment to West-European partners who now receive Siberian fuel in due time and in quantities, agreed upon.

Places to visit

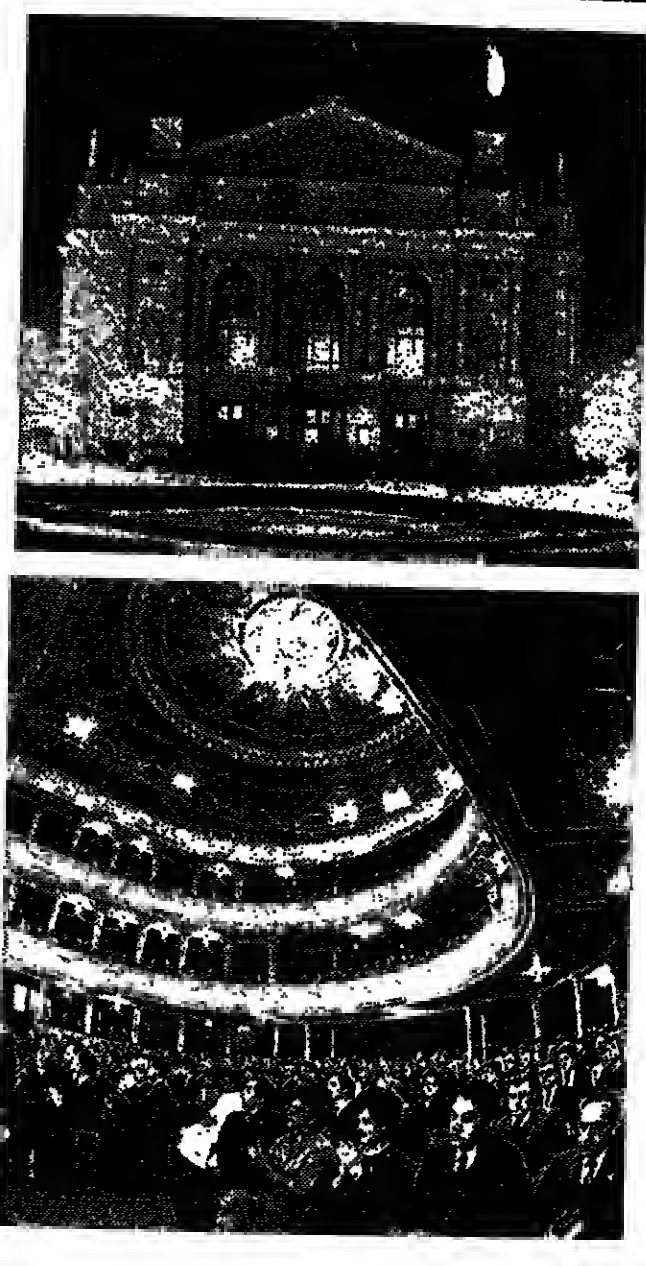
LYOV OPERA AND BALLET

A visitor to the ancient city of Lvov should not miss the pleasure to admire the architecture of the Lvov Opera and Ballet House. Designed by Zygmunt Gorgolewski at the threshold of the 20th century, the Renaissance and Baroque-styled building attracted many art connoisseurs by its harmonious outlook, frescoes, pictures, wood and stone carvings. Besides, the hall once was famous for its perfect acoustics.

But rains, winds and dust caused considerable damage to the cupola and columns. The interior decoration lost its original appearance. Feded became the previously famous stage-wide ceiling "Museum Triumph", designed by Semiradsky and once exhibited at an art gallery in Rome.

For a number of years restoration works were in full swing, the scaffolding was lowering round the theatre. More than five kilograms of gold were used to refresh the picture frames, ceilings and vaults with a total surface of about 1,500 square metres.

The dimensions of the new stage, previously small, are overwhelming. Operated from a control panel, four big and twenty small platforms can be moved up and down as well as tilted in all directions.



Microsurgery discussed in Moscow

The National Research Centre for Microsurgery of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Moscow, has recently been the venue for the first Soviet-American symposium on the subject. The two countries' delegates made reports on the latest achievements in this field of medicine.

Says Robert Russell, professor with the Medical Department of Case Western Reserve University: "What I've seen here is far beyond my expectations. I was shown the delicate and examined several patients. The results of treatment are amazing. Some of the methods which remain to be known in America I will surely use in my clinic, specifically the sewing of the vessels in a very complex skin-muscle-bone wound. I will tell the engineers at the University clinic concerning the vitality of grafted nerves and organs. Let them make a better ones to me!"

TROUSERS FOR INTENSIVE TREATMENT

The best is talking and the worst is going down... So the assistance doctor decided to put trousers on the patient. Of course, this is not an ordinary pair of clothes. It is made of a very elastic with built-in heater cuffs. By pumping air into the cuffs the blood is forced to flow where it is urgently needed.

A new treatment suggested by doctors at the Riga Medical Academy, Riga, Latvia and Ugle, is very efficient when no operations or solutions etc. are used. It is also useful in case of loss of blood or intensive heart attacks. Tests with the trousers were successful.

Fish-Industry personnel trained for developing countries

Hundreds of specialists in the fishing industry, who have got their training in the Soviet Union, now work in Asian, African and Latin American countries. Their education in the USSR has been part of the international assistance that is given by this country to newly free states with training their national personnel.

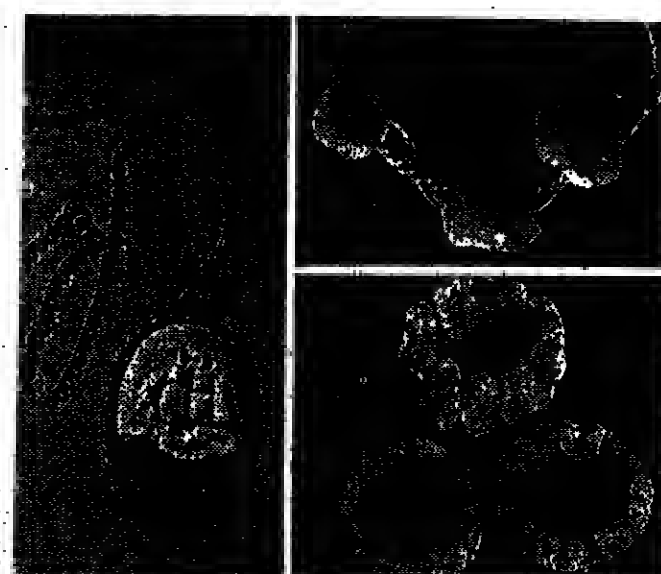
The significance of this aid is great: in conditions where the food problem confronting developing states gets ever more acute, modern fishing operations can help them meet their growing requirements for foodstuffs.

Sunny stone of the Baltic

Jewellery and ornaments from amber sell extremely well both in this country and abroad (see some of the products to the right).

The Yantarny settlement is believed to be the biggest producer of amber in the world. It is situated in the Kaliningrad Region on the Baltic shore. Its annual production runs into many hundreds of tonnes, and designers usually add new programmes featuring some 200 items — earrings, necklaces, earrings, fingerings, various pins and souvenirs.

The best products made at the combine can be seen at local museums, at international and national exhibitions.



Science and technology

INJECTION FOR STUMP

The thickest tree stump can be stubbed up without special efforts if treated in advance with a chemical preparation developed by scientists of the Georgian Polytechnic Institute.

The substance relates to sulphuric acid compounds — sulphates — and even dissolves some acid-proof metals. Scientists have made several solutions of different concentration. Each of them is recommended for a particular type of wood — aspen, beech or pine.

A hole is made in the stump and filled with the solution. A few days later the wood grows decrepit and becomes easier to stub up with a plough.

LETTER FROM ANCIENT GREECE

Ukrainian archaeologists working at the site of the town of Kerkinitida in the Crimea (Black Sea coast), where the city of Yavpatoriya now stands, have made a curious discovery.

It was a piece of an amphora. On it the scientists saw a fragment of a letter dating back to the end of the fifth century B.C. The letter is of great interest, since it tells the addressee that a consignment of salted meat had been sent to Greece overland.

INSTRUMENT FOR LASER SURGERY

A set of instruments for laser surgery has been developed at Medinstrument (a research and production association). The set of twenty items caused many troubles, the main being that the laser beam was reflected by metal and could hit the patient or the surgeon. Eventually, a light-absorbing metal surface was found to solve the problem and the set was recently approved for mass production.

Grand Prix Europe for choir conductor

Nikolai Metveyev, conductor of the choir of "Joy for the Distressed", a Moscow church, has been awarded Grand Prix Europe — a special prize of the French recording academy — for performing church music. 76-year-old Nikolai Metveyev is famous for his work on the preservation of old and particularly church music. He has for 40 years been heading the choir which also takes up the works of Russian composers, Sergei Rachmaninov and Pyotr Tchaikovsky.

VIEWPOINT

1984 Soviet economic links

In 1984, the Soviet Union traded with 145 countries and the volume of its foreign trade made up 139.7 thousand million roubles, including exports worth 74.4 thousand million roubles. These figures were made known by Gennady ZHURAVLYOV, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, at a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists in Moscow.

As in previous years, our major partners are the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Poland, Hungary, Cuba, Yugoslavia and Romania.

In 1984, trade with China reached 1,000 million roubles. In 1985 this is expected to go up by fifty per cent.

As far as possible, the Soviet Union gives economic and technical assistance to developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to build up their national economies. In 1984, it maintained trade relations with 103 such states.

In the main, the Soviet Union exports to these countries machines and equipment for industrial projects. Half of the deliveries are for projects undertaken with Soviet assistance.

Of the developing countries India is our leading partner. The trade turnover between our countries, as compared with 1983, increased by 20 per cent and reached a record level of 2,600 million roubles. This growth was ensured through goods exchange. Apart from traditional Indian exports — tea, coffee, tobacco, spices, jute and fabrics, the Soviet Union buys Indian machine tools, electric storage batteries, steel ropes and power cables, as well as printing and other types of equipment, made by Indian national industry. Purchases of Indian engineering products by the USSR increased from 10 million roubles in 1975 to more than 150 million roubles in 1984.

It was stressed at the press conference that despite the attempts made by certain circles to hinder trade between the USSR and major Western countries, over the past four years deals with these countries cost nearly 50,000 million roubles.

Over the past ten years, nearly 50 trade and economic agreements were concluded with Western European countries, and a number of long-term programmes for economic, scientific and technical cooperation were worked out and implemented.

Western firms and organizations took part in the construction of industrial enterprises in the USSR, including one a "turn-key" basis.

Thus, last year, in the Byelorussian town of Zhlobin, a metallurgical factory for the production of 500,000 tonnes of steel bars from scrap metal a year was built on a "turn-key" basis by the Austrian state-owned concern, Vöest Alpine, with the participation of Danilov and Co. of Italy. In January this year, a contract was signed with these two firms on the construction, at the same factory, of a plant for the production of metal cord and rolled alloyed steel.

Zhuravlyov also noted that before July this year Soviet-American Trade Commission, which has not met for the past seven years, will resume its work.

